

Rev. Mr. Meikle, Oakville, questioned the right of the anti-Scott Act party to bring on an appeal at this time. Understood than an agitation for appeal could not take place until after the 1st May, 1885. The Act was not losing ground in Oakville. A large number of names on the anti-petition had been received about sixteen months ago, or a few months after the Act came into operation. The spirit of the Act was—that no agitation should take place for three years, or until it had a fair trial. Did not think that any government would entertain it. Urged the convention to enter a strong appeal against this petition.

Mr. Taylor, Oakville, said that the Anti-Scott Act party of the province would use every means in their power to repeal the law in this county. To repeal the law here meant defeat in many of the counties now agitating for its submission. In Oakville the opponents of the Act will poll a larger majority than they did in the last contest. Satisfied that when the vote came the rural parts would give a large majority against the repeal. Many, who in the last contest worked and voted against the law, would now support it. Business had not been injured—his business had largely increased.

Rev. C. Corkman, Trafalgar, doubted if the opponents of the Act had any intention of bringing on a vote. Thought the petitions had been got up for use in the counties now agitating for the Act. Time was not completed when it was proper to bring on a repeal vote. If brought on every effort should be made to defeat it. Did not know one who supported the Act in the last contest who would now oppose it, knew several who voted against it that now work and vote against a repeal.

Rev. Mr. Fraser, Peel Co., said that he had come to this convention in order to receive information as to the success or failure of the Act in Halton. The petitions circulated in Peel, had, on the whole been well signed. In one polling sub-division only three men had refused to sign it, in another they had secured over two-thirds of all the electors. When the work was finished they would have more than the requisite number of signatures. The fact that the petition was so largely signed without public agitation were encouraging. The result in Peel would largely depend on the action of the people of Halton in the repeal vote. If the Act was sustained here it would be carried there.

Several gentlemen (leading merchants of Milton and Georgetown) reported that their business had increased rapidly since the adoption of the Act in that county.

At this stage of the proceedings much amusement was created in the convention by a delegate reading an article from the *Canadian Sportsman*, edited by Mr. King Dodds, to the effect that the merchants of Georgetown, Acton, and Milton were *cyrant* for the repeal of the Act.

W. P. Moore, Acton, reported that many of the business men of that village who opposed the Act during the last contest now freely admitted that it had not injured business. Many who opposed it would now vote against the repeal. Acton would give a majority of 25 or 30 for the Act. There were men in Acton who signed the petition that would vote against the repeal.

Rev. W. G. Wallace, Georgetown, stated that they had held a meeting in that village and organized for the campaign. Canvassers had been appointed for each ward, and they were now ready for the work. A public meeting had been arranged for Lime House; thought that part of Esquesing would give a good vote for the Act.

After the morning session had adjourned, the delegates were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon, by the ladies of the Milton branch of the W. C. T. U.

The early part of the afternoon session was taken up with reports from the various municipalities, after which Rev. Mr. Meikle, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:—

1. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention the working of the Scott Act in the County of Halton during the past two years has given satisfactory evidence of the following results:—(a) That the open sale of intoxicating liquors and the treating system have been altogether abolished. (b) Consumption of liquors has materially diminished and crime greatly lessened. (c) The enforcement of the Act has cost the county nothing—the fines imposed upon offenders being sufficient for that purpose. (d) That with very few exceptions the violations have been made by those who formerly sold under license. (e) The working of the Act has never attained that point which offenders most dread, viz., imprisonment. (f) That with the exception of the abuse made by doctors and druggists of the privilege granted them, the Act has been productive of as much good as could reasonably be expected by the friends of prohibition,

and is being more and more successfully enforced. The abuse above referred to is, in the judgment of this Convention, not likely to occur again.

2. That whereas we have lost no confidence in the Scott Act, but are confirmed in our opinion as to the good results of its enforcement, and also that it is an excellent stepping-stone to prohibition, we pledge ourselves to resist to the utmost of our ability any effort to repeal the law in this county.

3. Resolved, That the information received from the delegates attending this Convention from every part of the county justifies us in expressing our confidence that in the event of a repeal vote being taken the Act will be sustained by a large majority.

4. That this Convention desires to place on record their high appreciation and sense of gratitude, which they feel are due from every temperance man in the County of Halton, to the Rev. D. L. Brethour, Rev. J. Coutts, and other ministers, for their earnest and constant advocacy of the principles of temperance and prohibition during the past two years, and especially for having so successfully defended the Canada Temperance Act in this county from the false and unjust attacks made upon its workings by the various agencies employed by the interested forces, who have since its inception done their utmost to defeat the progress of the Act and to bring into contempt.

5. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to J. F. Starret, of the *Halton News*, H. P. Moore, *Acton Free Press*; Mr. Neelands, *Georgetown Herald*, and R. C. Orr, *Oakville Independent*; not only for their able and consistent advocacy of the principles of temperance, but for the honest and truthful reports given during the past two years for the working of the Scott Act in this county.

The following officers were then elected:—

Rev. M. C. Cameron, President, Austin Willmott, Treasurer; Rev. D. L. Brethour, Secretary; W. Brathous, Assistant Secretary; Executive Committee—Johnson Harrison, Rev. D. McKenzie, S. Centre, D. Hartley, and James Harrison.

A vote of thanks was then returned to the ladies of the Milton Branch of the W. C. T. U., for the entertainment which they had provided, after which the Convention adjourned.—*Globe*.

## Sons of Temperance.

### GRAND DIVISION OF ONTARIO.

The Semi-Annual session of the Grand Division of Ontario took place in Uxbridge on Tuesday and Wednesday, 27th and 28th May. There was a good attendance of representatives present. Among others from a distance were:—H. S. McCollum, of St Catharines, Most Worthy Scribe of the National Division of America; Robert Craig, Past G.W.P., of Quebec; J. W. Manning, of Almonte; Henry Alexander, of Ottawa; Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Milton; Thos. Webster, of Paris; G. M. Rose, Henry O'Hara, John McMillan, and W. H. Orr, of Toronto; P. Hinman, of Grafton; Helena Robins, of Orillia, etc. The Grand Worthy Patriarch, Mr. John McMillan, presided.

After the usual routine business, ten new representatives presented themselves, were duly installed, and took their seats, after which the officers submitted their reports. The G.W.P., Bro. John McMillan, after referring to the pleasure he had in meeting with the representatives, says:—

"I am pleased that we meet under such favorable circumstances, and that I am enabled to report the order in a very flourishing condition, old divisions increasing their membership, new divisions springing up into existence, and all full of life, vigor, and action, working together harmoniously for the advancement of the cause of temperance and prohibition.

Since my re-election to the office of Grand Worthy Patriarch, at the annual session held at Ottawa, I have pursued the same course of action which has already met with your approval. I continued to visit personally and to as great an extent as possible subordinate divisions and conventions, and also arranged during the winter for a large number of public meetings under the auspices of the order in various portions of the jurisdiction, which, I believe, were of considerable benefit to our cause.

I have carried on an extensive correspondence with my deputies and leading members of the order, with a view of cheering the active and earnest, and encouraging the weak or careless to more active exertion in disseminating our principles. So far as I can learn the order was never in a more healthy condition. The number of reports I have received from my deputies, and the encouraging nature of those reports, are a certain indication of the healthy spirit which animates the great bulk of our meetings."